GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:409
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2002
U.S. OFFER TO CHECK INCURSIONS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Defence Secretary has stated that there are `indications` of Al-Qaida terrorists operating near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir and offered to provide ground sensors to monitor the militant incursions from across the LoC; and

(b) if so, the details of issues which figured prominently in his talks with the Indian leadership?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) The U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld stated in New Delhi on 12 June 2002 that he had seen `indications that there in fact are Al Qaeda operating in the area that we`re talking about near the Line of Control.I do not have hard evidence of precisely how many or who or where`.

Secretary Rumsfeld reiterated the U.S. offer of providing technology tools, including sensors, for border management, which is being discussed by India and the United States in the context of their counter-terrorism cooperation through the bilateral Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism.

(b) Secretary Rumsfeld reaffirmed President Musharraf`s pledge to the United States on immediate, visible and permanent end to cross-border infiltration and his assurance to take action against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. He also expressed hope for de-escalatory steps from India on the basis of progress in the implementation of President Musharraf`s pledge. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations, especially in the area of defence cooperation.